

# Maine Legacy

Storehouse

The Nature Conservancy

## Chapter purchases Western Brothers Island

Rising abruptly out of the sea at the entrance to Englishman's Bay, Western Brothers Island is one of the gems of the downeast Maine coast. Through the cooperative efforts of the Maine Chapter and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, this gem has now been permanently protected.

Western Brothers Island is an important seabird nesting site, supporting breeding populations of Leach's storm petrels, black guillemots and eider ducks. This dramatic twenty-acre island also provides habitat for blinks and bird's eye primrose, two rare plant species, as well as roseroot sedum and seaside bluebells, two unusual subarctic plants.

Lying several miles off the coast in the waters of the town of Jonesport, Western Brothers has an unusual bedrock structure which gives it a spectacular appearance. Its rounded 100-foot-high dome of volcanic tuff, marked by a sheer east-facing cliff, is visible from miles away. The bedrock is covered with grass and shrubs as well as peat, in which the burrow-nesting petrels excavate their nests under cover of darkness. Because of its significance as a nesting site for seabirds and its unusual geologic features, Western Brothers appears on Maine's Critical Areas Registry. At low tide, the island is attached by an isthmus to Eastern



Kent Wornack

Brothers Island, another important seabird nesting island which is privately owned.

The Chapter's interest in Western Brothers dates back to 1981, when staff members first approached the landowner about a conservation purchase of the island. Although the owner

did not wish to sell at the time, the Chapter continued to stay in touch over the years, eventually striking a deal with new owners. As a result, The Nature Conservancy acquired Western Brothers island in July, 1989.

Because it is a cooperative project with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Western Brothers will be transferred to that agency for management as a seabird nesting site. Funding for the purchase will be provided by the Department's own land acquisition bond monies.

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*"...one of the gems of  
the downeast Maine coast."*

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## the director's corner

by J. Mason Morfit

One of the nice things about working for The Nature Conservancy is that most people believe you're doing a good thing and treat you accordingly. It was therefore a shock to be characterized as an environmental Bad Guy at a recent town meeting in Beals, the small Down East community in which our 1,500-acre Great Wass Island Preserve is located.

At issue was the fact that last fall, the Maine Chapter had applied to the National Park Service (NPS) to have the Great Wass Island Preserve designated a National Natural Landmark. Based on The Nature Conservancy's national experience as the owner of more than fifty landmarks (five of them in Maine), we perceived the designation as a totally benign honor, attesting to the national-level ecological significance of another of our Maine preserves. It would have virtually no effect on our ownership or management of the preserve nor, in our judgment, on any other property.

The situation was seen differently by a small but active group called the Washington County Alliance, formed several months ago in reaction to a proposal (put forward by another national conservation group) that a new National Park be established in Washington County. Without bothering to contact the Maine Chapter for our side of the story, the Alliance mounted an intensive, door-to-door campaign to persuade the people of Beals that Landmark designation for the Great Wass Island Preserve was simply the first step in the creation of a new National Park in Beals, including widespread condemnation of residents' homes.

Unfortunately, we didn't learn of the Alliance's allegations until they were front page news in a local newspaper. By the time I had a chance to address a specially-convened town

meeting on June 20, we were obviously coming from behind.

At that meeting I cited several reasons why, in our judgment, the odds that a National Park would be created in Beals were too remote to merit serious concern:

- First and foremost, as stated in the Landmark evaluation itself, the Conservancy has absolutely no intention of transferring the property to any public agency, state or federal, because intensive public use would be inappropriate for this fragile preserve;

- There is no cause-and-effect relationship between Landmark designation and the creation of National Parks; 97 percent of all National Park Service units (such as Acadia National Park) were acquired by the federal government prior to, and therefore independently of, designation as Landmarks;

- Creation of a new National Park requires specific Congressional approval; Maine's delegation has no plans for a new National Park anywhere in

the state, and has effective veto power over any initiatives from other quarters.

Nevertheless, the townspeople and selectmen remained concerned about any NPS program, honorific or otherwise, and asked the Conservancy to withdraw the Landmark application.

As I had stated in my opening remarks, our first priority is the protection of the Great Wass Island Preserve; and the good will of the people of Beals is much more important to that end than any honorific designation the National Park Service may bestow. I therefore agreed to withdraw our application, and have since received notification from the NPS that they will honor our request.

The good news is that, while the people of Beals are so opposed to the National Park Service that they literally want nothing to do with it, they reaffirmed their appreciation of The Nature Conservancy as the private steward of the Great Wass Island Preserve.

The bad news is that this controversy may have diverted the attention of the people of Washington County from development-related problems which are much more real and immediate than those allegedly associated with National Natural Landmarks. Increases in real estate prices which preclude local ownership and use of waterfront property, increased valuations accom-



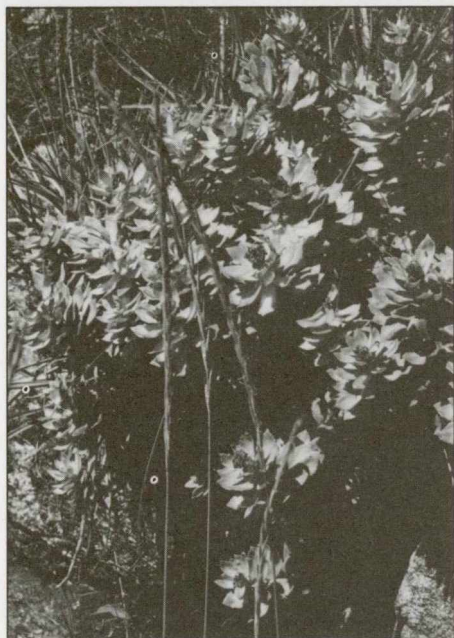
Great Wass Island

Thomas Arter



panied by increased property taxes, increasing demands on limited municipal facilities, and the loss of open space for public recreation, are all problems which truly threaten Washington County's way of life and which will persist despite our withdrawal of the Landmark nomination.

The Nature Conservancy has been protecting outstanding natural lands Down East for some thirty years. As indicated on the cover of this newsletter, we will continue to do so, confident that most people in Washington County value the lands we protect as fundamentally important to their way of life.



*Roseroot sedum (Sedum roseum)*

## Western Brothers Island

from page one

Western Brothers is the latest addition to a number of other Conservancy-protected parcels in this area, including nearly a dozen islands in the Head Harbor-Steele Harbor archipelago.

As with all seabird nesting islands, persons should avoid landing on Western Brothers during nesting season, from March 15 to August 15. At other times persons should use caution in boating to this outer island, which is exposed to the Atlantic and provides limited anchorage.

## Conservancy president to step down

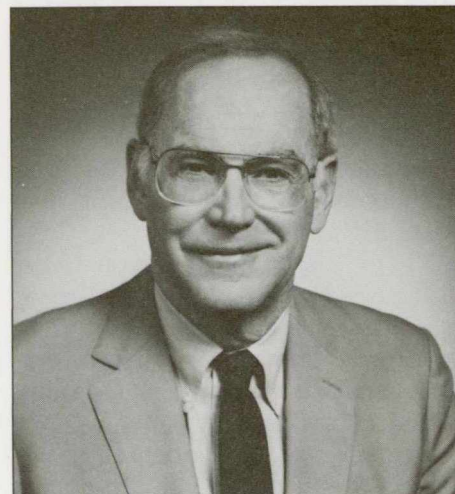
Frank Boren, President of the Conservancy since January, 1987, advised the national Board of Governors in June of his intention to step down no later than the end of the year.

In accepting the impending resignation, the Board of Governors praised Boren for his leadership and accomplishments.

David Harrison, the Board's Chairman, pointed out that since Boren's arrival, the Conservancy has nearly doubled its membership, to over half a million, making it one of the largest and most effective land conservation agencies in the United States.

More than a million additional acres of ecologically significant land have been protected through Conservancy action since Boren became President.

"Frank Boren has brought the Conservancy to a high plateau of achievement from which we can continue to move forward," said Maine Chapter



Trustee Chairperson Sherry Huber, who also serves as a member of the national Board of Governors. "Under his leadership, The Nature Conservancy has become a major, powerful force for the conservation of our irreplaceable natural heritage in this country and beyond."



Western Brothers Island

Kent Wornack



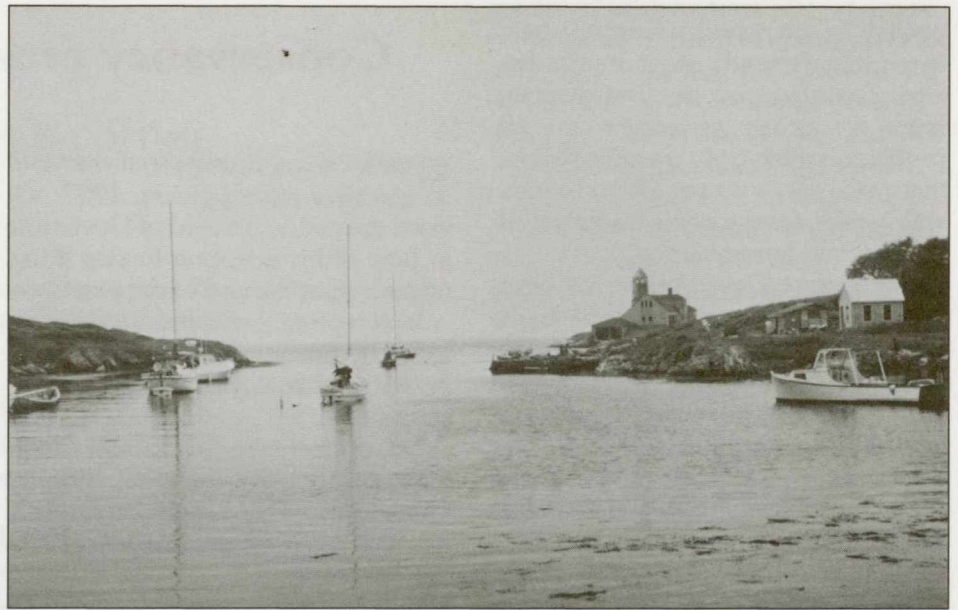
## Damariscove Island campaign reaches 90% mark

With a recent grant from the Nine Wicket Foundation (formerly the McCue Family Foundation), the Damariscove Island Stewardship Campaign is now only \$10,000 short of its \$100,000 goal.

The campaign, launched last summer, is intended to provide a permanent management endowment for the Conservancy's Damariscove Island Preserve, which is located about five miles off Boothbay Harbor.

Damariscove Island offers an exceptional combination of natural and historical values. On the north end is a colony of approximately 1,000 nesting eider ducks. On the south end, around the harbor, are the remains of what was, in the early 1600's, the chief maritime port in New England. Damariscove Island was named a National Historic Landmark in 1978.

Since the island was given to the Conservancy in 1966 by Mr. and Mrs.



*Damariscove Island*

K. L. Parker, annual stewardship expenditures have steadily increased. The major expense is the cost of maintaining two caretaker/naturalists on the island during the summer months, when visitation is at its peak. In addition, there are occasional capital expenses, such as the new float and dock installed last year.

Readers of this article who would like to help "cap off" the Damariscove campaign should contact the Chapter office (or just send money). A sort of lavishly illustrated, 12-page prospectus is available to anyone potentially interested in a gift of \$1,000 or more.

—Mason Morfit

## American Heritage Trust Act update

Three of Maine's four Congressional representatives have signed on as cosponsors to a bill which would help protect important recreational and natural lands nationwide. Senator William Cohen has now joined Representatives Olympia Snowe and Joseph Brennan in supporting the American Heritage Trust Act.

The Act would convert the popular Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON) into a true trust fund. Interest from the fund would be available to local, state and federal agencies to acquire land and develop recreational facilities.

While LAWCON currently allocates anywhere from 40% to 100% of its money for federal acquisitions, the American Heritage Trust Act mandates that most of its funds would be used for state or local projects. These funds would be available to match other state monies (such as the Land for Maine's

Future bond issue) as well as providing outright grants to local municipalities for locally-initiated acquisition, recreation or planning purposes.

The Trust funds would be allocated according to a strict formula:

- Federal land acquisition: 30 percent
- State grants: 30 percent (split evenly with local towns)
- State land trust funds: 10 percent
- Urban recreational facilities: 10 percent
- Discretionary funding: 20 percent

The American Heritage Trust Act is especially important because it would dramatically increase the money available for all kinds of natural land and recreational projects. Maine's current annual allotment of \$300,000 from LAWCON could rise as high as \$3.7 million by 1994 under the Trust legislation.

Over the years, LAWCON has provided acquisition and management fund-

ing for literally hundreds of projects in Maine. These projects have ranged from small, local sites like a town ballfield in Beals and boat ramps in Orono, to larger acquisitions such as the Bigelow Mountain Reserve and the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge.

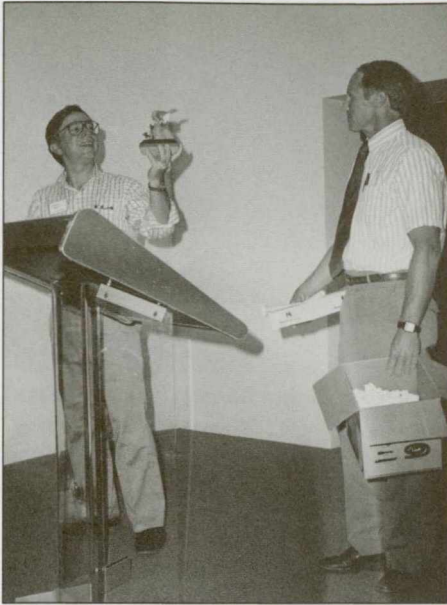
In addition to Maine's two representatives, there are 218 other cosponsors in the House, practically assuring passage of the bill in that chamber. Currently, 39 of 100 senators have agreed to cosponsor the bill.

Members interested in this legislation should contact their senators or representatives for further details and an update on the bill's status. The House bill, H.R. 876, is sponsored by Representative Morris K. Udall of Arizona; the corresponding Senate bill, S.370, was introduced by Senator John H. Chafee of Rhode Island.

—Kent Wommack



# Annual meeting report



Mason Morfit and Dr. William B. "Tony" Owens

**E**xhilarating field trips got June 24 off to a good start for Conservancy members who attended the Maine Chapter's annual meeting this year. They gathered at the Owls Head Transportation Museum to refresh themselves with lemonade, coffee and cookies until Chairperson Sherry Huber called the brief business meeting to order.

A highlight of the meeting was the surprise presentation of a wood carving of a grasshopper sparrow perched above a spray of blueberries. Retiring Treasurer and Trustee Dr. William B. "Tony" Owens of Cape Elizabeth donated the work to the Chapter as a memento of his nine years' service on the Board.

After the official adjournment, many members lingered to view a videotape of Conservancy activities made by national television personalities, including Peter Jennings.

During the social hour that followed, Trustee Libby Donnan was the delighted winner of a ride in a 1931 Waco biplane piloted by Jim Rockefeller, Jr. The ride was donated by the Owls Head Transportation Museum, which also gave two family memberships, won by members Susan Davies and Jim Zynsky.

A cook-out of clams, lobster, and barbecued chicken, followed by brief award ceremonies and a tour of the museum, completed an annual meeting day that won many compliments from those attending. Thanks to Julie Henderson, Cindi Morrison and all those who helped make the day a success.

—Joan Acord



Libby Donnan and Marilyn Moss Rockefeller

## Maine Chapter Stewardship Award

George Cochrane of West Southport received the 1989 Maine Chapter Stewardship Award for his leadership of the Damariscove Stewardship Endowment campaign, as well as for myriad other services as a Trustee.

With his wife, Anne, George Cochrane made a generous and creative gift of land which resulted in a significant expansion of the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge and added to the Chapter's long-term land protection capability.

## Volunteer of the Year

The Maine Chapter's annual Volunteer award went to Tom Summers of Cape Elizabeth. Tom has spent many hours at the computer keyboard in the Chapter office entering data to put it in a form more useful to the stewardship staff. Wear your new Conservancy necktie in good health, Tom!

## Chapter History

Many fascinating anecdotes of the formative years of the Maine Chapter are chronicled in a newly written history by Charter Honorary Trustee Edward T. Richardson, Jr. Titled "The Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy—the Early Years," the 24-page report brings to life events of the Chapter's first decades.

Mr. Richardson joined the Chapter as a young lawyer in 1957, only a few months after its formation. Writing from his personal recollection rather than from dry records, he recreates the flavor of the early days which were



Volunteer Susan Russell with other members at Annual Meeting social hour.

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## Volunteers Help Fill the Gaps

Libby Moore of South Freeport has generously offered her botanical skills to the Chapter stewardship program this summer. Libby, most recently employed as a land use planner, has also worked with TNC in New Hampshire. She will be spending two to three days each week doing ecological inventories for new TNC preserves and potential tradelands.

Susan Russell of Waldoboro has faithfully appeared each week at the Topsham office to do whatever is asked of her; be it stuffing envelopes, preparing displays, stamping checks or cataloging photos, Susan has had the good will and gumption to get up and do whatever needs to be done.

Our field trip program would not be the same without the knowledgeable, experienced leaders who donate their time to share their expertise with our members. A big thank you goes out to all of them:

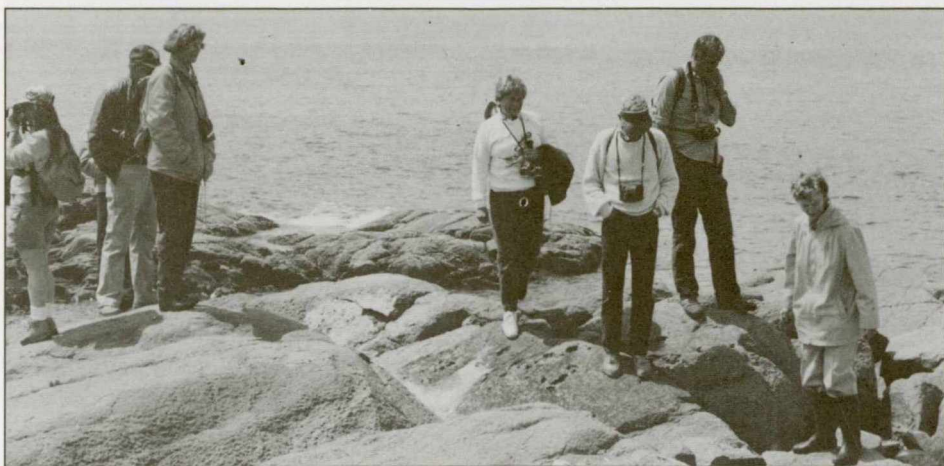
Linda Alverson (Ashland)  
Peter Blanchard (Somesville)  
Dr. Ken Crowell (Sunset)  
Jane Heyward (Sorrento)  
John Kokajo (The Forks)  
Dr. Alan Lewis (Machias)  
Judy Markowsky (Orono)  
Dr. Warren Riess (Bristol)  
Sally Rooney (Houlton)  
Dr. Steven Selva (Fort Kent)  
Dr. C. Tattersall Smith (South Berwick)

Steve Spencer (Farmingdale)  
Dr. Charles Todd (Orono)  
Peter Vickery (Richmond)

Mary Agnes Wine (Brunswick)

And thanks to our annual meeting trip leaders:

Robert Elder (Brunswick)  
Tufts Harrison (Vinalhaven)  
Dr. Richard Homola (Orono)  
Dr. George Rossbach (Camden)  
Doug Stark (Augusta)



Cindi Morrison

*Tufts Harrison (far right) led Lane's Island field trip before the Annual Meeting.*

## Preserve/Easement Monitors Needed

For each of our preserves, easements, and transfers, we have a volunteer monitor who helps us watch over the site and who fills out a brief annual report on its condition.

The preserve reports provide an essential up-to-date reference that assists with stewardship planning, while the easement reports enable us to keep track of those sites for which we have a legal responsibility.

If you live or summer near one of the following places and are interested in a commitment of several years, please consider acting as a monitor for one or more of the following sites. Please note that island monitors must arrange for their own boat transportation.

### Preserves:

Appleton Bog, Appleton  
Black Island, Jonesport  
Ketterlinus, Tremont  
Man Island, Jonesport  
Mark Island, Jonesport  
Sabra's Creeper Hill, Stow  
Stone Island, Machiasport  
Sucker Brook, Lovell  
Upper Birch Island, Addison

### Easements (all in Jonesport):

Cows Yard Islands  
Halifax Island  
Head Harbor Island  
Seguin Island  
Steele Harbor Island

Call Julie Henderson at 729-5181 if you are interested in joining the ranks of stewardship volunteers.

## A Mightier Pen (Set)

Thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Richard Rausch of Strong, we now have a seven-pen Rapidograph set, complete with compass, all in like-new condition, for use in the newsletter and mapping.

## Damariscove Island reaps rewards

Thanks to Rowland Keith of Gilford, N.H., for donating an Ultralight dinghy for use at Damariscove Island. Thanks also to Mr. and Mrs. David N. Jones of Union for passing on two beautiful hand scythes that will help keep island trails clear.

## But we can always use something more!

How about a heavy-duty lawn mower in good repair for use on Damariscove? (When the caretakers are too tired to scythe ...)

We are still looking for a good two-way radio for use during field work in remote areas.

We could use a card table for setting up displays.

A second 35mm camera would be nice. Then we could record an area in slides with one camera and take black-and-white photos for the newsletter with the other.

An IBM-compatible AT class or laptop computer would speed the flow of work through the office.

And receipt of a planimeter to measure acreage on maps would set off rejoicing among our science and stewardship personnel as well as our land acquisition staff.



## Chapter History

from page five

"uncertain but exciting. We knew what we wanted to do, but it was a long time before we learned how to do it.... We were convinced that we were doing a good thing for Maine, and I have never wavered in that conviction."

A motion by then Trustee Peter Mills at the 1987 annual meeting gave Mr. Richardson the impetus to write the history. After serving as Trustee and in various Board offices, he was elected to the position of Charter Honorary Trustee upon his retirement after thirty years of service.

Members who wish a copy of the history may obtain it from the Chapter office.

—Joan Acord



## Maine Legacy

Published six times yearly by the Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, 122 Main Street, P.O. Box 338, Topsham, Maine 04086; telephone (207) 729-5181. Submissions of articles, illustrations and photographs are welcome.

Subscriptions to this newsletter are available to members. Membership dues are as follows: Life, \$1,000 (one-time); Acorn, \$100; Supporting, \$50; Contributing, \$35; Family, \$25; Subscribing, \$15. More than 13,000 members currently support the Conservancy's work in Maine.

### TRUSTEES

**Officers:** Sherry F. Huber, *Chair*, Falmouth; Dr. Peter Corcoran, *Vice-chair*, Seal Harbor; Marilyn Moss Rockefeller, *Vice-chair*, Camden; Donald F. Mairs, *Secretary*, Oakland; Charles J. Micoeau, *Treasurer*, Portland. **Trustees:** William W. Alcorn, Biddeford; Michael W. Aube, Bangor; William D. Blair, Jr., Vinalhaven; George W. Cochrane III, West Southport; Dr. Malcolm Coulter, East Holden; Minnette H. Cummings, Portland; Jane Holt de Frees, Rumford; Elizabeth Donnan, Northeast Harbor; Scott F. Hutchinson, Cumberland Foreside; John Lincoln, South Freeport; Cherie Mason, Sunset; Dr. Ray B. Owen, Jr., Orono; Robert J. Piampiano, Portland; Ralph H. Robins, York; Dr. C. Tattersall Smith, South Berwick; Carol A. Wishcamper, Freeport. **Charter Honorary Trustee:** Edward T. Richardson, Jr., South Portland.

### STAFF

Vice-president and Executive Director, J. Mason Morfit; Associate Director, Kent Wommack; Director of Science and Stewardship, Barbara St. John Vickery; Heritage Program Director, John Albright; Director of Land Protection, Jim Dow; Assistant to the Executive Director, Deborah Clark; Assistant Stewardship Director, Julie Henderson; Administrative Assistant, Jeanne Desjardins; Membership Secretary, Barbara Clark; Secretary Bookkeeper, Cynthia Morrison.

## Memorial gifts

Gifts in memory of the following individuals have been received by the Maine chapter:

C. A. Bauer  
Caroline Pratt Fisher  
Marion MacMahon  
Jane G. McPhedran

## New life members

Any gift of \$1,000 or more to the Maine Chapter Land Preservation Fund provides a life membership for the donor and spouse in The Nature Conservancy. All such gifts furnish a long-term source of support to help save land here in Maine.

We are pleased to welcome as new life members:

Joan Perry  
Heide and Francis Schumann  
D. R. and Barbara Weedon

## Organizational support

We are pleased to receive support from the following organizations:

Castine Conservation Trust  
Friends of Nature, Inc.  
Penobscot County Conservation Association  
Sunkhaze Stream Chapter, Trout Unlimited



Bird's eye primrose (*Primula laurentiana*)

## Corporate members

An annual gift of \$100 or more qualifies a business as a corporate member of the Maine Chapter. We are pleased to have received support from the following:

Atkinson Contract Services  
Bath Iron Works  
Allen Agency—Insurance  
Blue Hill Books  
Blue Rock Industries  
Cascade Woolen Mill, Inc.  
Casco Northern Bank  
C. E. Environmental  
Consolidated Hydro, Inc.  
CYRO Industries  
Dead River Co.  
Deering Lumber Co.  
Rufus Deering Co.  
First NH Bank of Maine  
G & S Commercial Brokers  
Robert G. Gerber, Inc.  
Great Northern Paper Co.  
John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance  
Harborside Graphics (also Corporate Associate)  
Johnson & Johnson  
Kennebunk Savings Bank  
The Knowles Company  
Life Sports of Maine  
Morton Lumber Co.  
Moody & Co.  
Thom. Moser Cabinetmakers  
Moss Inc.  
Murray, Plumb, & Murray  
Peat Marwick Main & Co.  
Prime Tanning Co., Inc.  
J. T. Rosborough, Inc.  
Charles W. Sawyer, Jr.  
Small Hydro East  
Wasco Products, Inc.

## Foundation support

We are grateful for the support of the following foundations:

Gerrish H. Milliken Foundation  
The Nine Wicket Foundation  
Quaker Oats Foundation  
Sharpe Family Foundation

## Corporate Associate

We welcome Kroegel Meats, Inc. as a Corporate Associate. A corporation becomes a Corporate Associate of The Nature Conservancy upon contributing between \$1,000 and \$10,000 annually to the operations of the organization.



# Maine Chapter members receive EPA award

Just prior to the Chapter's Annual Meeting in late June, Trustee Chairperson Sherry Huber and Executive Director Mason Morfit braved the heat, humidity and extravagant parking fees of Boston to accept, on behalf of the Chapter's members, a special award from the Environmental Protection Agency.

The award was presented by national EPA Administrator William K. Reilly (formerly president of the World Wildlife Fund, with which the Conservancy is cooperating on several international programs) and EPA Region I Administrator Michael R. Deland, Chairman-designate of the federal Council on Environmental Quality.

Nomination of the Maine Chapter for the EPA award had been enthusiastically seconded by Governor McKernan, Senators Cohen and Mitchell, and Representatives Snowe and Brennan.

The citation accompanying the award reads, in part, "The Nature Conservancy, Maine Chapter ...its staff, and its 14,000 member-households are being recognized for more than 30 years of work protecting the best remaining components of Maine's natural heritage. Confronted with increasing development pressures, the Maine Chapter within the last two years has more than doubled the total area of threatened wilderness that it holds under protection."

Commenting on the award at the Annual Meeting two days later, Executive Director Mason Morfit reported that the staff had submitted a nomination specifically on behalf of the Chapter's membership, to recognize them for their outstanding volunteer services and exceptional financial support.

"This is your award," said Morfit, passing it out to the assembled members, "Congratulations and thank you."



Nesting petrel



Left to right: EPA Region I Administrator Michael R. Deland, Maine Chapter Trustee Chairperson Sherry F. Huber, Executive Director J. Mason Morfit, EPA Administrator William K. Reilly

## Openings for rafting trip

The Dead River rafting field trip scheduled for Monday, September 4 (Labor Day), from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. still has some openings.

The cost of the trip is \$75 per person, but groups of four or more can go for \$60 per person. All proceeds go to TNC.

Don't miss the fun. If you are interested, call Jeanne Desjardins at 729-5181.

## HELP WANTED

Wanted: Volunteer with surveying skills to help mark preserve boundaries in southern and midcoast Maine. Call Julie, 729-5181.

Wanted: Artists to donate original black-and-white line drawings of Maine plants and animals for use in Maine Legacy and other Maine chapter publications. Credit will be given.



Maine Chapter  
The Nature Conservancy  
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